

STATUS MEMORANDUM

SLOVAK TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY CURRICULUM REFORM

Prepared by

Alastair G. Law, FRICS
PADCO, Inc.
1025 Thomas Jefferson Street, NW
Washington, DC 20007

under subcontract to

The Urban Institute
2100 M Street, NW
Washington, DC 20037

UI Project 06610-703
August 1996

Prepared for

East European Regional Housing Sector Assistance Project
Project 180-0034
U.S. Agency for International Development, ENI/EEUD/UDH

Contract No. EPE-0034-C-00-5110-00, RFS No. 703

Slovak Technical University

Meetings
August 6 and 13, 1996

Profs. Koloman Ivanicka, Igor Travník, Eva Sinderlova

0Value Management Text/Workbook

In response to a request from Mr. Law, the Slovak Technical University (STU) prepared a budget, including staff salaries and printing costs, to prepare a textbook on the subject of value management. The workbook will incorporate much of the material prepared for the Value Management Workshop held in March 1996, and will include chapters on cost-benefit analysis and life cycle cost analysis. It is planned to produce about 150 copies of the book, which will have approximately 260 pages and will be entitled, "Value Management in the Construction Industry."

Prof. Ivanicka will act as managing author and contribute a section on cost-benefit analysis. Other chapters will be written by professors Travník (life cycle cost analysis), Durechova, Sinderlova, and Petrakova (value engineering). Alastair Law will assist in reviewing and editing the workshop material and reviewing U.S.-published works on the subject for applicability for the Slovak book. In particular, he will review the Society of American Value Engineers, Value Foundation, VE Workbook. In addition, he will write a foreword to the book. Although the textbook is primarily intended to be a Slovak language version, some consideration will be given to the concept of also preparing it in English, so that it might be translated into other languages.

Prof. Ivanicka proposes that the bulk of the production commence in January 1997, although some of the STU contributors may commence their work immediately following approval of the RFS (proposed budget attached).

It is anticipated that the workbook will be completed by the beginning of the 1997-98 academic year.

1Proposed Value Management Seminar

More than 20 fifth-year students from STU attended the March 1996 Workshop, and, at that time, it was anticipated that the university would offer a post-fifth-year semester with value management as one of the optional subjects. As it has turned out, the extra semester has not, for a variety of reasons, been possible. Thus, the potential ex-fifth-year market has been lost. It is therefore proposed to hold a one-day seminar, possibly in the fall, aimed at fourth- and fifth-year students, to create some interest in the subject of

value management, to provide an outline of the course, and to advise students of the preparation of the forthcoming text/workbook. After discussion with Mr. Williams of USAID, it is proposed to investigate the possibility of extending the audience to practicing engineers. Subsequently, Mr. Law met with Prof. Viera Medelska, Vice President of the Slovak Association of Civil Engineers, who was supportive of the concept. The Association is responsible for training its members and Ms. Medelska thought that the introduction of value management would be of some interest to their members. Since it takes about three months to organize a program, she suggested that it would be more realistic to plan on offering the seminar during the Spring of 1997. It was agreed that a meeting should be arranged with STU in September to discuss the seminar further.

APPENDIX

PREPARATION OF A VALUE MANAGEMENT WORKBOOK FOR THE SLOVAK TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY

Background

USAID has provided technical assistance to the Department of Economics and Management at the Slovak Technical University (STU) in the area of curriculum reform related to project and construction management. Twelve subjects have been identified as being necessary to be added to the current syllabus in order to offer a complete course covering all aspects of construction management. One topic, Value Management, has been selected as the first new course to be added, and two faculty professors have been designated as teachers of the subject. To date, the faculty have been exposed to Value Management through two training workshops organized by USAID consultants and by personal study of English language text books, also provided by USAID.

The department has prepared a syllabus, and the course is now being offered to students as a one semester program. Over twenty fifth-year students attended the workshop given last year and were enthusiastic about the subject. At that time, the department was planning to offer an extra “post graduate semester to final year students and it was anticipated that the Value Management course would be taken up at that time. The concept of the extra semester has not been successful for several reasons and the anticipated “market” has been lost. Students inquiring about the course have expressed concern that there is no available text book in the Slovak language. In reality, this is a serious shortfall which needs to be rectified both from the teaching and learning points of view.

The most economic way to overcome this shortfall would be to review and edit the materials from the workshop last year and to assemble them into a workbook in the Slovak language. Since the workshop materials were in the form of overhead vu-graphs, some additional text will be required to complete the book. The Value Foundation of the Society of American Value Engineers (SAVE) published a training manual for university use some years and it is possible to include some portions of it in the STU workbook.

To motivate students who have not been exposed to this subject, a one day seminar in Value Management, would be held in the fall for fourth and fifth year students. This would allow them to sign up for the course during the next semester.

Scope of Work

1. Review SAVE Value Foundation manual for applicability to STU and obtain any copyright approvals if necessary.

2. Review and edit earlier workshop material
3. Assist STU authors in drafting text and advise on content progress etc.
4. Prepare and participate in one day workshop for 4th and 5th year students.